

HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
CENTER

UC Berkeley School of Law

ANNUAL REPORT 2022 / 2023



# Opening letter



The Human Rights Center house at 2224 Piedmont Avenue was re-painted over the summer of 2023.

**COVER:** People sit in a bus as an evacuation convoy of buses and cars arrives at a displaced persons' hub in Zaporizhzhia, in the early hours of April 4, 2022, during Russia's military invasion launched on Ukraine. (Photo by EMRE CAYLAK/AFP via Getty Images)

**LEFT:** A partial group photo of the Human Rights Center team at a staff retreat in Tilden Park in August 2023

Dear friends,

As we round the corner to celebrate the Human Rights Center's 30th anniversary, we're grateful for the opportunity to reflect on our last year of work.

It's been a year of transition, as Alexa Koenig stepped into her role as Co-Faculty Director with Eric Stover, and Betsy Popken became the Executive Director of the Human Rights Center.

It's also been a year of impact, as our programs and special projects—in the thematic areas of technology, health, conflict, and climate—continued to flourish:

- This year's student fellows mark 400+ students who have worked to help advance human rights around the world with HRC's support.
- The Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations, which establishes the minimum professional standards for the collection, verification, and analysis of digital open source information, is currently being published in all the languages of the United Nations. We will be celebrating this milestone with trainings worldwide in partnership with our collaborators at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- Our Health and Human Rights program continues to work with the city of San Francisco and local community partners on an innovative model of family-based foster care for Bay Area youth at risk of commercial sexual exploitation.

- In the seventh year of the Investigations Lab, our students investigated human rights abuses in Iran, documented the murders of Indigenous land defenders in the Brazilian Amazon, and uncovered inequities in the U.S. asylum process, among other projects.
- Our Technology, Law & Policy program submitted a monumental Article 15 Communication to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court calling for specific Russian cyberattacks on Ukraine's critical civilian infrastructure to be recognized as war crimes.

As we look back on nearly three decades and ahead to the next thirty years, we're taking stock of the biggest threats to human rights in the world today, including climate change, and how we can help innovate solutions. HRC is responding to climate-vulnerable communities, such as agricultural and livestock workers, with a new portfolio of work on climate change and its human impact.

Thank you for supporting the Human Rights Center, and please join us as we celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2024.

Signed:

Eric Stover, Co-Faculty Director  
Alexa Koenig, Co-Faculty Director  
Betsy Popken, Executive Director



# Health and Human Rights Program

*Improving the health and protection of marginalized communities impacted by conflict, forced displacement, and violence.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Bay Area foster youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation or trafficking

- ▶ We were awarded a \$1.3 million grant from the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women (DOSW) to lead the evaluation of three new interventions for youth who have experienced or are at risk of at risk of trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation (CSE).
- ▶ We are continuing our evaluation of Family and Me (FAM), an innovative model of family-based foster care that centers CSE-impacted youth.
- ▶ We are working with DOSW and San Francisco nonprofit partners to develop a new model of emergency housing to meet the immediate needs of youth currently in situations of CSE who may not be ready to transition directly into a family-based foster home. This unique model of transitional housing, focused on harm reduction and promoting youth agency, will be addressing an urgent need for youth currently experiencing CSE.
- ▶ We will be partnering with Freedom Forward's Helping Young People Elevate (HYPE) Center to conduct youth-centered research to inform CSE prevention efforts and support services. The HYPE Center is a multi-service drop-in center designed by and for young people where they

can easily access services and resources from multiple providers under one roof.

### Child marriage in humanitarian settings

- ▶ We worked with Save the Children, Plan International, and other humanitarian agencies to use findings from our research on child marriage risk factors, decision-making, and community-driven solutions to develop a comprehensive theory of change and program model for preventing and responding to child marriage in humanitarian settings.

### Supporting LGBTQI+ refugee youth

- ▶ With a grant from the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, we recently began a project to improve protection and mental health services for LGBTQI+ adolescents in humanitarian settings. Working with Save the Children USA and Edge Effect, we are conducting research in partnership with refugee youth and grassroots LGBTQI+ rights organizations to develop global child protection guidance and case management tools for humanitarian practitioners. The guidance will be piloted in three countries and disseminated globally, addressing a major gap in the humanitarian space.



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An ad developed by Freedom Forward for the recruitment of foster caregivers for FAM 1.0.

LEFT: The San Francisco Bay Bridge and city skyline.



# Technology, Law & Policy Program

*Advancing innovation in international criminal justice.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

### **A submission to the International Criminal Court on cyberwar in Ukraine**

- ▶ Under the leadership of the Technology, Law & Policy (TLP) director, HRC submitted a second Article 15 Communication to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on cyber war crimes in Ukraine. The filing presents the case for charging five Russian cyber-attacks perpetrated between 2014 and 2022 against Ukraine's critical civilian infrastructure as war crimes. The submission followed our 2022 Article 15 Communication to the Office of the Prosecutor calling on it to investigate a unit within Russia's GRU known as Sandworm for cyber-attacks against Ukrainian electric power grids in 2015 and 2016. While HRC's first submission on cyberwarfare to the ICC was based only on open source information, we advanced our efforts and diversified our evidence collection for the 2023 submission, engaging a range of experts in cyber threat intelligence, Russian military operations, and international criminal and humanitarian law. We engaged in continuous digital fact-finding and conversations with more than 70 technical, legal, and policy experts to gain a deeper understanding of the cyber and physical domain.

**LEFT:** Lindsay Freeman speaks about the strategic use of digital information and information technologies in the Russo-Ukrainian conflict at CyCon 2023.

### **Collaborating on original legal strategies with the international justice community**

- ▶ The TLP team hosted and moderated two panels at RightsCon 2023. The first panel, "*Berkeley Protocol in Action: Successes and Challenges for Implementing Digital Investigation Standards in Ukraine*," invited representatives from the Ukrainian Legal Advisory Group, Mnemonic's Ukrainian Archive, and the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine to discuss the use of the Berkeley Protocol in the documentation of war crimes in Ukraine. The second panel, "*Cyberwar in Ukraine: The Roles, Responsibilities, and Accountability Required by International Law*," invited commentary from US Ambassador-at-Large for Global Criminal Justice Beth Van Schaack and representatives from Microsoft, the CyberPeace Institute, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and University of Oxford. This panel was organized in partnership with Microsoft's Digital Diplomacy Team, and discussed the multifaceted issues present in the cyber domain during international armed conflicts.

- ▶ HRC partnered with the American University Washington College of Law's Technology, Security & Law program to host a day-long event on the prosecution of Rome Statute crimes in the cyber domain. The event included two public panels and a private workshop, and was co-sponsored by the Embassies of Estonia, Liechtenstein and Switzerland. The first panel focused on the application of international criminal law in the cyber domain, while the second focused on the cyber dimension of the war in Ukraine. The closed workshop invited select legal, technical, and policy experts to provide feedback to HRC on our cyber war crimes case in anticipation of our second Article 15 Communication.



Technology, Law & Policy team members (L-R) Danil Cuffe, Amanda Ghahremani, Lindsay Freeman, and Sophie Lombardo attend the annual Cyberwarcon Conference in Washington D.C. in 2022.





# Investigations Lab

*Strengthening human rights investigations, developing students' abilities, and producing a pipeline of talent to the fields of technology, journalism, public policy, and law.*

## HIGHLIGHTS

This year, our Investigations Lab collaborated with frontline organizations to support investigations worldwide. Below are just a few examples:

- ▶ The University of California Network on Human Rights and Digital Fact-Finding (UCNHR), co-founded between the HRC Investigations Lab and partner labs at UC Santa Cruz and UCLA, is collaborating to investigate environmental and human rights abuses in extractive industries, with a particular focus on targeted violence and intimidation against indigenous environmental defenders in Brazil.
- ▶ Our students worked with Human Rights First and El Instituto para las Mujeres en la Migración to track incidents of violence against Venezuelan asylum seekers and migrants affected by the expansion of Title 42, as part of UCNHR.
- ▶ Under the leadership of Lab alumni, a team of HRC student researchers developed a novel methodology to study inequities in the U.S. asylum process. Students presented their findings at the Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO) conference in Washington D.C., and were awarded an Outstanding Paper Award for their contribution.

- ▶ HRC's Lab Director and a handful of Lab students attended Amnesty International's 2022 Digital Verification Corps (DVC) Summit in Mexico City. HRC helped establish the DVC in 2016, working with our partners at Amnesty to create a coalition of universities that could teach students how to find and verify photos and videos coming out of conflict zones. Students at the summit had the opportunity to attend sessions on innovative investigation techniques and ethics in digital open source investigations, and to bond across campuses. HRC's Lab Director taught a session on vessel tracking, and another on corporate investigations.



Catey Vera and Vyoma Raman present at the EAAMO Conference in October 2022.

## THANK YOU, STEPHANIE CROFT

Thank you to Stephanie Croft, who directed our Investigations Lab from summer 2019 to spring 2023. With over ten years of experience, Stephanie brought a wealth of specialist knowledge to the Lab. Stephanie played a critical role in high-impact reporting at distinguished news organizations, including the *Associated Press*, *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*. Alongside managing the Lab, she helped expand the scope of HRC's professional trainings and advised partner organizations in the areas of geospatial science, supply chain investigations and environmental crime. Stephanie will continue as a non-resident research fellow.



A group photo of Lab students following the 2023 Student Showcase at Berkeley Law.

**LEFT:** (L–R) Lab student Danilo Gleichmann, former Lab Director Stephanie Croft, and students Sofia Schnurer and Yaas Farzanefar attend the Mexico City Digital Verification Corps Summit in September 2022.



"This fellowship was the best experience I ever had in my entire time at UC Berkeley. It's been truly life changing. I feel so grateful to have had this opportunity. I truly can't overstate how amazing it was."

— 2023 HRC Student Fellow

# Fellowship Program

*Providing training and funding so students can contribute their expertise to support human rights worldwide.*

With our 2023 cohort of students, the Human Rights Center is celebrating 30 years of fellows. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we've sent more than 400 students to pursue fieldwork in over 81 countries and territories around the world. This year's fellows worked on projects including reproductive rights for Rohingya refugees in Bangladeshi camps; the right to drinking water in California's drying Central Valley; human trafficking in the Mediterranean, the plight of Afghanistan's Hazara women, and the exploitation of Chinese immigrants by the cannabis industry in the American southwest.

Our fellows provide crucial skills and support to frontline organizations across the globe as they gain invaluable experience on the ground. One of the Human Rights Center's most lasting impacts is the cultivation of future leaders, and this group of fellows is just the latest chapter in a long legacy of service. To celebrate 30 years of fellows, we've initiated a fellowship mentoring program to pair current fellows with alumni working in similar fields of practice, helping our fellows during their fieldwork and fostering professional connections that benefit both fellows and alumni.

**2023 Fellows:** Madeline Adee, Mikail Aliyu, Meghana Kumar, Gabriel Lazo, Mulika Musyimi, Maria Fernanda Quintero Sirtori, Jenny Rempel, Paula Santa Rosa, Meredith Sullivan, Wangyuxuan Xu, Zhe Wu, Tabesh Zaidi, Sediqa Zaki

**LEFT:** Wangyuxuan Xu and Zhe Wu are working with Berkeley Journalism's Investigative Reporting Program on a multimedia journalistic piece that includes a documentary, podcast, and long-form narrative investigating the labor and financial exploitation of Chinese immigrants in the U.S. cannabis industry.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Last year's student fellows presented their research, field work, and reporting from their summers during the student fellowship conference on October 14, 2022. They worked on urgent human rights issues including death penalty cases in the United States, the preservation of indigenous knowledge in El Salvador, housing rights in South Korea, public health in Palestine's IDP camps, and much more.
- ▶ 2022 fellowship alumnus Anthony Ghaly gave the keynote speech at the 2023 conference, focusing on what sets apart the students who ultimately dedicate themselves to human rights work in spite of the difficulties faced by practitioners across the field. "In the face of state impunity and democratic backsliding, these fellows press on," Ghaly said. "In the face of atrocities and apartheid, repression and war, small wins and very big losses, these fellows press on."



**ABOVE:** A collage of the 2023 fellowship cohort.



**LEFT:** 2023 Fellow Mulika Musyimi, an MPH candidate at UC Berkeley, spent his summer working to identify remaining barriers to accessing improved sanitation services in Kenya's informal settlements, and helping implement a new toilet design with Sanergy Collaborative.



# Professional Open Source Investigation Trainings

The Human Rights Center offers training courses and workshops on digital open source investigations to human rights researchers, lawyers, analysts, investigators, and journalists worldwide. Our trainings are provided pro bono to local human rights organizations that are making meaningful impact in their communities.

Building on our flagship digital open source investigations course with the Institute for International Criminal Investigations, our trainings focus on innovative approaches to investigating violations of international criminal and human rights law. We use our first-hand experience conducting and supporting open source investigations in combination with research developed at HRC to

engage participants through lecture, case studies, and hands-on exercises. The Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations serves as the foundational text for our program.

In 2022 and 2023, our trainers offered trainings to the following organizations (for safety reasons, several confidential organizations are not listed):

- The 5AM Coalition
- The Conflict Observatory
- The European Human Rights Advocacy Centre
- The International Criminal Court
- Yemen's National Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations to Human Rights
- The United Nations



HRC Investigations Lab students learn geolocation skills in a training session.



Brian Nguyen, lead trainer and research manager at HRC, works with participants of Yemen's National Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations to Human Rights during an HRC and ICTJ-partnered training in Amman, Jordan.

## Spotlight

In May 2022, HRC trained members of the 5am Coalition, a consortium of Ukrainian civil society organizations on how to use the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations to document alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity. HRC's team has continued to advise several organizations in Ukraine on software, techniques, and substantive case-building activities. The team also provides support to international NGOs partnering with these groups to help build capacity and standardize methods of investigation and analysis.

**LEFT:** Ceren Fitoz (center top), a researcher from HRC's Technology, Law & Policy team and Reem El Gantri (center right), the Libya Head of Programming for the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ), work with participants of Yemen's National Commission to Investigate Alleged Violations to Human Rights during an HRC and ICTJ-partnered training in Amman, Jordan.

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# Open Source Investigative Reporting

HRC strengthens the field of investigative reporting by teaching journalists rigorous open source research methods to integrate with traditional reporting. Our current contributions to the field of investigative journalism are three-fold: an innovative graduate-level course, partnerships and collaborations fostered through HRC's Investigations Lab, and resources for reporters that include professional trainings and our annual day of lightning talks and hands-on workshops co-sponsored with Berkeley Journalism's Investigative Reporting Program.

This year, our students investigated how Latin American travel agencies and airlines are profiting from the expulsion of Haitians from the United States, land encroachment into protected Indigenous areas of the Brazilian Amazon, and the far-right campaign to make birth control as inaccessible as abortion in the U.S.

## Our partners for this year's open source reporting class were:

- *The Associated Press*
- *The Rainforest Investigations Network from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting*
- *Reveal from the Center for Investigative Reporting*



**FAR LEFT:** *New York Times Magazine* journalist Azmat Khan and *New York Times* visual investigator and HRC alumna Haley Willis present at the 2023 Open Source / Open House workshops following the Logan Symposium on Investigative Reporting.

**LEFT:** Students attend a workshop during the 2023 Post-Logan Symposium Open Source / Open House.

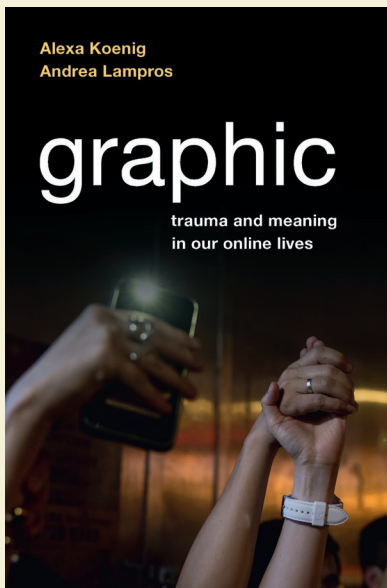
## Spotlights

- ▶ For two years, the Human Rights Center has worked with Berkeley Journalism's Investigative Reporting Program to co-produce a full day of open source investigative reporting lightning talks and hands-on workshops for some of the top investigative reporters in the world. Our Open Source/Open House partners with the Logan Symposium on Investigative Reporting to bring together journalists, investigators, and open source experts to spotlight the most cutting-edge innovations in digital and visual investigations.
- ▶ A collaboration between *Reveal from The Center for Investigative Reporting*, the Human Rights Center, and Berkeley Journalism's Investigative Reporting Program on the fall of *Roe v. Wade* resulted in

two hour-long podcast episodes. "A Strike at the Heart of Roe" debuted on February 12, 2022, before *Roe* was struck down. The story tracked the growing success of the Texas "heartbeat bill," which prior to the overturning of *Roe* sought to outlaw abortion after six weeks, the point at which fetal cardiac activity can typically be detected. "The Long Campaign to Turn Birth Control Into the New Abortion" was published on October 8, 2022, several months after *Roe* was overturned. The investigation revealed a disturbing landscape of birth control disinformation that actively targets women searching for contraception in the United States.

**LEFT:** HRC Supervising Reporter Gisela Pérez de Acha teaches a workshop on the network connection tool Maltego during the 2023 Post-Logan Symposium Open Source / Open House.

# Special Projects



The cover of “Graphic: Trauma and Meaning in Our Online Lives,” which was published in September 2023.

## **Accountability for sexual violence in conflict settings**

The Human Rights Center has been researching how to strengthen accountability for sexual violence using digital open source methods since 2018. This year, HRC and the Institute for International Criminal Investigations brought together a group of open source investigators and experts on investigating sexual violence to begin developing a guide on using digital open source methodologies to investigate sexual violence in conflict settings. Workshop participants discussed how to create a survivor-centered approach to online investigations of sexual violence. These perspectives will be synthesized in a companion guide to the Global Code of Conduct for Gathering and Using Information about Systematic and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, also known as the Murad Code after Nobel Laureate Nadia Murad, an Iraqi Yazidi human rights activist.

## **Resilience in human rights practice**

In our classes, trainings, and Investigations Lab, we teach psychosocial resilience as essential to digital open source investigations. This is both for the health of practitioners and the sustainability of human rights practice. Our goal is to promote wellness and ethics in our global work for human rights and justice. HRC Co-Faculty Director Alexa Koenig and former Associate Director Andrea Lampros recently published their book “Graphic:

Trauma and Meaning in our Online Lives” in September 2023. In the book, they share best practices for safely navigating our digital world. Drawing on the latest social science research, interviews, and their experiences co-founding and running the Human Rights Center’s Investigations Lab, Koenig and Lampros provide practical tips for maximizing the benefits and minimizing the harms of being online. Timely and urgent, “Graphic” helps us navigate the unprecedented psychological implications of the digital age.

## **Human rights assessment of generative AI**

Digital technologies have touched every facet of society from personal communication to public discourse, and are entering a new phase with the advent of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI). GenAI, specifically through large language models (LLMs), has the potential to generate text, images, and other media at an unprecedented speed and scale. However, despite its growing influence, there is an absence of public-facing research and analysis on the impacts of these models on human rights. HRC is conducting a human rights assessment of GenAI, specifically the transformative impacts of LLMs on three professional sectors: law, journalism, and education. We are conducting a literature review, assessing the risks GenAI presents to international human rights frameworks, interviewing stakeholders, and analyzing the performance of certain major GenAI platforms through an algorithmic evaluation of their human rights impacts.



# Afghan Scholars

In August 2021, after the withdrawal of U.S. forces, the city of Kabul fell to the Taliban. In the days and weeks following, thousands of people attempted to flee Afghanistan. With the UC Berkeley Office of the Chancellor, UC Berkeley Afghan Student Association, San Jose State University Human Rights Institute, and the Scholars at Risk organization, the Human Rights Center created an emergency evacuation and placement program for women professionals at risk of Taliban violence. Since then, we've hosted three scholars and their families:

- **Basira Qazizada**, a judge who previously sat on Kabul's Commercial Primary Court. She published an article in Afghanistan's Journal of the Supreme Court explaining the right of women to occupy top professional roles, according to the rule of Islam. This, along with her judicial decisions and her own career, made her a target of the Taliban.
- **Khwaga Ghani**, a journalist who has worked with *National Public Radio*, the *New York Times*, Amnesty International, and other entities. Her work and advocacy for a free and independent press, amplification of women's stories, and professional relationship with international media put her at risk of Taliban retaliation.

Maria Raheen (center) is joined by her daughters, son, and Afghan Scholar Coordinator Helia Sadeghi (far right) during a welcome reception for her held at the Human Rights Center.

- **Maria Raheen**, a journalist and academic focused on women's issues and media freedom. In Afghanistan, Ms. Raheen founded the Taj Institute of Higher Education, and served as the Dean of Journalism and Mass Communication at Balkh University. As a women's rights advocate and a journalist, Ms. Raheen was forced to end her participation in both academic and professional activities due to threats from the Taliban.

While both Ms. Ghani's and Judge Qazizada's scholarships have ended, we've been able to secure full scholarships for them both to pursue graduate degrees at UC Berkeley. Ms. Ghani is pursuing a Masters in Journalism at Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism, while Judge Qazizada has begun an LLM degree at the UC Berkeley School of Law. We have continued to support them both with financial, legal, and research assistance. Meanwhile, Ms. Raheen is researching the history of political and social change in Afghanistan, and how it has impacted Afghan women.



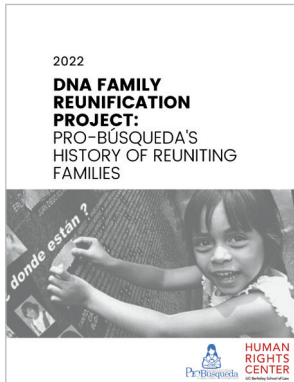
Judge Basira Qazizada holds a cake that reads "Human Rights UCB" at a lunch she sponsored for Human Rights Center staff.

# Publications

## Spotlights

### ► DNA Family Reunification Project: Pro-Búsqueda's History of Uniting Families

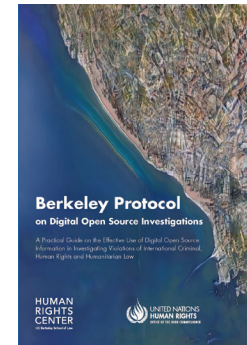
HRC co-released a report with our long-time partner Asociación Pro-Búsqueda de Niñas y Niños Desaparecidos that details the historical scope and practical steps of DNA reunifications in El Salvador. This publication, eleven years in the making, is dedicated to our dear friend and colleague Dr. Cristián Orrego Benavente, who passed away in 2018 after leading our Forensic Program and bridging the work of the Human Rights Center and Pro-Búsqueda. We hope it will serve as a resource for other organizations seeking to conduct DNA reunification of families separated by armed conflict and political repression worldwide.



### ► The Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations

Developed by HRC and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Berkeley Protocol is the first international set of guidelines outlining professional standards for the identification, collection, preservation, verification, and analysis of digital open source information with the aim of improving its effective use in international criminal and human rights investigations. The Berkeley Protocol is actively in use by Ukrainian prosecutors documenting Russian war crimes, and was translated informally into Ukrainian within weeks of the invasion. We are developing a practical guide to implementing the Protocol for lawyers and judges in partnership with Essex University, WITNESS, Human Rights Watch, and Mnemonic to further assist legal practitioners in the pursuit of justice. The Berkeley Protocol is being published in all the languages of the United Nations.

LEFT: The cover of "DNA Family Reunification Project: Pro-Búsqueda's History of Reuniting Families."



Cover images of the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations in English, Russian, and Arabic.

## This year's publications

### Authored / co-authored by HRC faculty, staff, fellows

- Article 15 Communication to the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court on Cyber War Crimes in Ukraine, Human Rights Center (L. Freeman, A. Ghahremani, B. Nguyen, S. Mashayekhi, S. Lombardo)
- Bearing Witness: Testimony and Transitional Justice in the Aftermath of Mass Violence, Palgrave Handbook of Testimony and Culture (S. Smith-Cody, E. Stover)
- Cutting-Edge Evidence: Strengths and Weaknesses of New Digital Investigation Methods in Litigation, Hastings Law Journal (A. Koenig, L. Freeman)
- Democratizing OSINT: University-Based Lessons on Diversity and Inclusion, Opinio Juris (S. Falcón, A. Koenig, S. Kooner, J. Peake)
- Family and Me (FAM): A New Model of Foster Care for Youth Impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation in San Francisco, Human Rights Center (J. Freccero, S. Chynoweth, A. Taylor, J. DeSilva)
- Finding a Middle Ground? International Humanitarian Aid Organizations, Information Sharing, and the Pursuit of International Justice, Human Rights Quarterly (E. Stover, Sarah Craggs, Tiffany Deguzman, Ivey Dawson, Helena von Nagy, Bryce Rosenbower)
- Five lessons on housing for youth impacted by commercial sexual exploitation, #Verified from the Human Rights Center (J. Freccero, A. Taylor)
- From 'Capture to Courtroom': Collaboration and the Digital Documentation of International Crimes in Ukraine, Journal of International Criminal Justice (A. Koenig)

- Graphic: Trauma and Meaning in our Online Lives, Cambridge University Press (A. Koenig, A. Lampros)
- Hiding in Plain Site: Using Online Open Source Information to Investigate Sexual Violence and Gender-Based Crimes, SUNY Press (A. Koenig, U. Egan)
- Links in the Chain: How the Berkeley Protocol is Strengthening Digital Investigation Standards in International Justice, Open Source Investigations in the Age of Google, World Scientific Publishing (L. Freeman, A. Koenig)
- Mapping the Use of Open Source Research in UN Human Rights Investigations, Journal of Human Rights Practice (D. Murray, Y. McDermott, A. Koenig)
- Meta's Oversight Board Recommends Major Advance in International Accountability, Just Security (A. Koenig)
- Russian Cyberattacks Need an International Criminal Court Response, Center for European Policy Analysis (L. Freeman)
- Seeing Through the Fog: The Impact of Information Operations on War Crimes Investigations in Ukraine, International Conference on Cyber Conflict (L. Freeman)
- Seven Essential Questions for Ethical War Crimes Documentation, Responsibledata.io (J. Easterday, J. Geis, A. Koenig)
- The Gravity of Russia's Cyberwar against Ukraine, Opinio Juris (L. Freeman, A. Ghahremani, S. Lombardo)
- Ukraine Symposium – Accountability for Cyber War Crimes, Articles of War (L. Freeman)

### Authored by students

- Bias, Consistency, and Partisanship in U.S. Asylum Cases: A Machine Learning Analysis of Extraneous Factors in Immigration Court Decisions, Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization Conference, (V. Raman, C. Vera, C. Manna)
- Can machine learning measure the impact of bias on U.S. asylum decisions?, #Verified from the Human Rights Center (V. Raman, C. Vera)
- Tools and Takeaways from the 2022 Amnesty International Digital Verification Corps Summit, #Verified from the Human Rights Center (M. Wong, D. Gleichmann, S. Schnurer, Y. Farzanefer)
- Trauma can be transformed into an instrument for generational healing. Here's how we can do that., #Verified from the Human Rights Center (A. Montoya)

### Wider collaboration

- Holistic Digital Security, UC Network on Human Rights and Digital Fact Finding
- Investigating Perpetrators, Public Interest Advocacy Center



# Events

Every year, the Human Rights Center works with dozens of partners and collaborators to organize and participate in a wide range of events.

- HRC presented in more than 30 conferences, summits, panels, workshops, webinars, roundtables, and other events.
- Separately, HRC fully produced or co-produced more than 20 events both on and off campus.

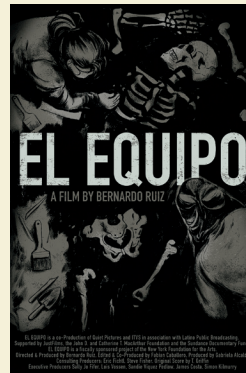
On November 7, 2022, HRC hosted a panel discussion and screening of *The Broken Promise*, an award-winning documentary that explores ongoing patterns of genocide and the institutional failures that allow it to occur. HRC's Co-Faculty Director Alexa Koenig was a primary contributor to the film. The event explored humanity's worst moments and how big business and government are complicit in allowing them to happen.

LEFT: HRC Co-Faculty Director Alexa Koenig (R) speaks on a panel with (L-R) film director Kurt Norton, activist and torture survivor Mohamed I. Elgadi, and activist and educator Nahid Abunama-Elgadi following a screening of the documentary *The Broken Promise* at Berkeley Law.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### ► “El Equipo” screening and panel

On March 21, 2023, HRC hosted a screening and panel discussion of *El Equipo* (“The Team”), a documentary telling the story of how Dr. Clyde Snow, a legendary forensic scientist, and HRC’s Co-Faculty Director Eric Stover, who worked alongside Snow for decades, brought together a group of Argentine university students who would become the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team. The team would go on to train hundreds of investigators and lead dozens of mass exhumations around the world, bringing answers to families seeking the truth of what happened to their loved ones and accountability for those responsible for war crimes at home and abroad. The panel was



A poster for *El Equipo*, a documentary about the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team featuring HRC Co-Faculty Director Eric Stover.

moderated by Berkeley Journalism’s Andrés Cedieli, and featured Eric Stover and the film’s director Bernardo Ruiz as well as video comments from Mercedes “Mimi” Doretti, one of the original co-founders of the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team.

### ► Our Children’s Trust: double event feature

On February 9, 2023, HRC hosted two events with Our Children’s Trust Chief Legal Counsel Julia Olson. The first was a conversation introduced by Executive Director Betsy Popken at Berkeley Law between Olson and Louise Bedsworth, Executive Director of the Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment, about the role of strategic litigation in fighting climate change, and new creative legal strategies for securing the right to a safe climate, for an audience of Berkeley Law students. The second was a public screening of the documentary *Youth v. Gov*, which tells the story of the remarkable *Juliana v. United States* constitutional climate case brought by Olsen and Our Children’s Trust against the US government, which asserts that it has “violated the youngest generation’s constitutional rights to life, liberty, and property, as well as failed to protect essential public trust resources.” The screening was followed by a panel discussion.



Our Children’s Trust Chief Prosecutor Julia Olson moderates a conversation between UC Berkeley climate activists Mari Wong, Amy Elizabeth Johnson, and Ashi Mishra on February 2, 2023.



# Human Rights Classes

## Health and Human Rights

School of Public Health, School of Law  
Rohini Haar, Eric Stover

## Human Rights and Social Justice Writing Workshop

School of Law  
Carolyn Patty Blum, Eric Stover

## Human Rights and War Crimes Investigations: Methods

Legal Studies  
Alexa Koenig

## Human Rights and War Crimes Investigations

School of Law  
Alexa Koenig, Eric Stover

## Open Source Investigative Reporting

Graduate School of Journalism  
Alexa Koenig, David Barstow, Gisela Pérez de Acha

## Open Source Investigations in Legal Practice

School of Law  
Alexa Koenig

## Technology and Human Rights

School of Law  
Betsy Popken

## The Killing of Jamal Khashoggi and the Search for Justice

School of Law  
Alexa Koenig, Noah Novogrodsky



Investigations Lab students (L-R) Camille Chabot, Yaas Farzanefer, and Sofia Schnurer discuss their work.



New students with the Investigations Lab receive training at the Human Rights Center.

## Spotlight

### Technology and Human Rights

Taught by Executive Director Betsy Popken, this new course explores certain rights, such as freedom of expression and right to privacy; specific technologies like generative AI and the metaverse; and how to responsibly innovate technologies with human rights at the fore. Using the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and International Human Rights Law, the course fosters discussions on how to mitigate negative human rights impacts through human rights policies, due diligence, and remediation. Students learn first-hand from human rights practitioners at technology companies, non-profit organizations, and multi-stakeholder initiatives about their most difficult challenges to upholding human rights.

**LEFT:** Law students ask questions to Our Children's Trusts Chief Prosecutor Julia Olson and Berkeley Law's Center for Law, Energy, and the Environment Executive Director Louise Bedsworth on February 2, 2023.





# Our Appreciation

## Advisory Board

Carolyn Patty Blum  
Richard M. Buxbaum  
Henry Erlich  
Hany Farid  
Elizabeth Farnsworth  
Dr. Rohini Haar  
Adam Hochschild  
Art Reingold  
Robert J. Rosenthal  
Patricia Viseur Sellers  
Miranda Sissons  
Gerson H. Smoger  
Darian Weltman Swig  
Hon. Rebecca Westerfield  
Dr. Thomas J. White

## In Memoriam

### Liz Lutz

This year, we lost a treasured member of the Human Rights Center community. Liz Lutz, a longtime champion of the HRC and a member of our Advisory Board, passed away on June 20, 2023. "Liz was not only a supporter but a dear friend of the Human Rights Center," said HRC Faculty Director Eric Stover. "Liz and her husband Greg had one clear objective: to support the Center so we could increase our visibility, prominence, and national and worldwide impact. And without their advice and support, we wouldn't be where we are today." We are eternally grateful to Liz, and her commitment to our mission and to human rights worldwide.



Liz and Greg Lutz.

**Thank you to the following foundations, corporations, and organizations for their generous support:**

- Berkeley Collegium
- Commission for International Justice and Accountability
- Humanity United
- Hala Systems Inc
- Microsoft
- Miller Fund
- Oak Foundation
- Open Society Foundations
- Open Society Justice Initiative
- Open Society University Network
- Public Interest Technology University Network
- San Francisco Department on the Status of Women
- Student Technology Fund
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives

Thank you to the 211 individual donors and 15 organizations whose contributions make our work possible. **90% of our budget is raised through the generosity of our donors**, and we are thankful for your partnership!

**LEFT:** The International Law Certificate ceremony included HRC Advisory Board Members Carolyn Patty Blum and Richard Buxbaum, Co-Faculty Directors Eric Stover and Alexa Koenig, and Graduate Student Researcher Anthony Ghaly.



# Staff

## Staff

Maggie Andresen, Editorial Manager and Lead Writer

Michaela Austin, Program Coordinator, Health & Human Rights Program

Alexey Berlind, Associate Director, Fellowships and Events

Julie Freccero, Director, Health and Human Rights Program

Lindsay Freeman, Director, Technology, Law & Policy Program

Alan Iijima, Development Manager

Alexa Koenig, Co-Faculty Director

Sofia Kooner, Assistant Director, Investigations Lab

Brian Nguyen, Research Manager

Gisela Pérez de Acha, Supervising Reporter

Betsy Popken, Executive Director

Helia Sadeghi, Scholars Coordinator

Eric Stover, Co-Faculty Director

## Researchers

Camille Chabot / Danil Cuffe / Ceren Fitoz / Amanda Ghahremani / Ana Linares Montoya / Vyoma Raman / Audrey Taylor

## Visiting Scholars

Noah Novogrodsky / Sarah Zarnsky

**A heartfelt thank you to the following former team members for their outstanding work with HRC and for all they will continue to do for human rights:**

- Stephanie Croft, former Investigations Lab Director
- Shakiba Mashayekhi, former Technology, Law & Policy Program Coordinator



Members of the Technology, Law & Policy team (L-R) Brian Nguyen, Lindsay Freeman, Shakiba Mashayekhi, and Danil Cuffe at the 2023 Post-Logan Symposium Open Source/Open House.



Alexey Berlind speaks to members of the 2022 student fellowship cohort.



(L-R) Sofia Kooner, Jessica Peake, Sophia Lilinoe Grewell, Sylvanna Falcón, and Stephanie Croft at the UC Network on Digital Fact-finding UC Santa Cruz Symposium on April 3, 2023. Image by Carolyn Lagattuta.

**LEFT:** Executive Director Betsy Popken and Development Manager Alan Iijima take a walk in Tilden Park on August 19, 2023.



# Students

## Graduate Student Researchers

Safa Faki / Anthony Ghaly / Linda Gordon /  
Celina Romano / Sasha Polakow-Suransky /  
Sophie Lombardo / Zhe Wu

## Investigations Lab Lead Undergraduate Student Researchers

Camille Chabot / Yaas Farzanefar / Zaidie Long /  
Eli Martinez / Neeka Mirpour / Vyoma Raman /  
Sofia Schnurer / Catey Vera



**LEFT:** Student Fellows Malak Afaneh and Anthony Ghaly at the 2022 Fellowship Conference.



**ABOVE:** HRC Executive Director Betsy Popken speaks to members of the Investigations Lab.

**LEFT:** 2022 student fellow Bhavya Joshi at the post-conference reception at the Human Rights Center on October 14, 2022.

## Student Spotlight

We're proud to share that 2023 graduate Catey Vera, who has worked with the Human Rights Center's Investigations Lab for the last three years and aced all undergraduate courses taught by HRC faculty, was selected as this year's University Medalist! The award is the highest honor given to an undergraduate student at UC Berkeley, and recognizes Catey's extraordinary academic achievements and exceptional character.



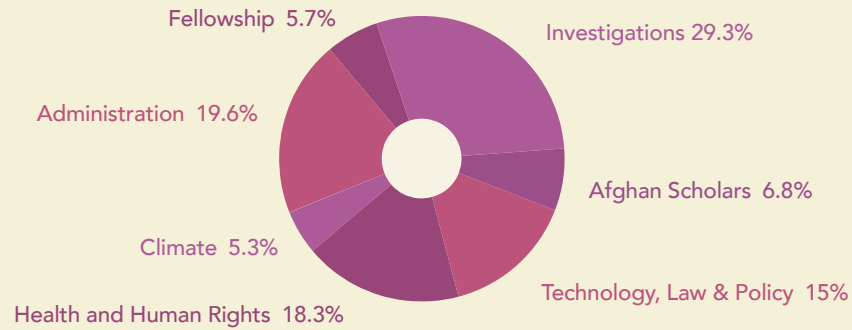
HRC Co-Faculty Director Alexa Koenig and Investigations Lab alumna Catey Vera, who was awarded as the 2022 University Medalist, the highest honor at UC Berkeley for an undergraduate student.



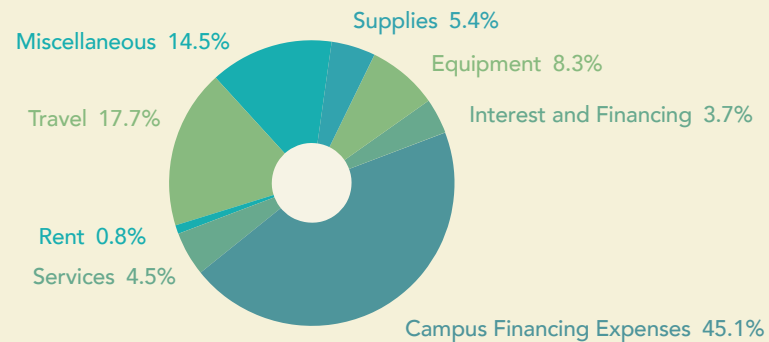
# By the Numbers

## Financial Report 2022–2023

### PROGRAM EXPENSES \$2,218,528.04



### GENERAL EXPENSES \$384,122.74



Total Revenue: 3,004,732.00 | Total Expenses: 2,602,650.78

LEFT: Mikail Aliyu speaks to his co-fellows at the 2023 student fellowship orientation on April 21, 2023.

“Investigation into and accountability for violations of human rights are critical to the effectiveness of the international human rights law. The Human Rights Center provides innovative, evidence-based research to advance these goals.”

**—VOLKER TÜRK, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**